Probe Widens Slayings of Giancana, Rosselli for Possible Link

BY NORMAN KEMPSTER
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WASHINGTON—A new congressional committee plans a thorough investigation of the murder of Sam Giancana and John Rosselli to find out if the mobsters' deaths were linked to the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

Richard A. Sprague, staff director of the House assassinations committee, said Tuesday that the panel would explore the relationship between the President and the two mob figures as part of its investigation of the killings of Kennedy and civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King.

"In the investigations of both King and Kennedy, any other murder that has the appearance of relevancy must be investigated as well," Sprague, a former Philadelphia prosecutor, said during a breakfast meeting with The Times' Washington bureau.

Outlining his plans for the $6.5 million-a-year inquiry he has proposed, Sprague said that his staff would use extensively two types of lie detectors: the usual polygraph, which must be physically attached to the witness, and a "stress evaluator," which its developers claim can indicate truth or falseness of tape-recorded statements.

The committee also plans to purchase two tiny transmitters that can be hidden in the clothing of an investigator during the questioning of a potential witness. When combined with the stress evaluator, this device will permit the committee to subject individuals to secret lie detector tests.

Sprague said that witnesses, including present or former government officials, would be asked to submit voluntarily to a polygraph test. "The stress evaluator can be used when a person does not agree to the polygraph," he said.

Discussing the value of the polygraph, Sprague said that a good operator "can subject someone to a test and have the person remain mute, yet on the basis of the questions and the reading of the emotional responses, he can pinpoint where people met, on what occasions, who met them."

He said that no "bona fide" conclusion could be reached if a person refused to take a polygraph test. But he added, "from an investigator's standpoint, it might then make us question why not, and dig in that particular area more thoroughly."

Sprague said that the purpose of the investigation was to answer the many questions that have been raised since the Warren Commission concluded that Lee Harvey Oswald was the lone assassin of Kennedy and since James Earl Ray pleaded guilty to the murder of King.

He said the committee would make public—chiefly through public hearings—the information that it develops, even if the disclosures might affect individuals or government agencies only indirectly connected to the murders.

Sprague said the committee might even reveal the identity of undercover CIA agents, if necessary to tell the full story.

Sprague said last week that the committee would hire its own investigators because it could not rely on the FBI and the CIA to do its leg work. He said that the agencies had withheld information from the Warren Commission on at least two occasions.

In elaborating on the matter Tuesday, Sprague said his staff has discovered instances in which federal agencies withheld information from the commission in addition to the previously disclosed situations. He declined to elaborate but he promised to supply details later.

"It is important to trace through each and every step that has the appearance of relevancy, even if it shows that the reason for the nondisclosure was for some other motive than involvement in the murders," he said.

Richard A. Sprague

AP photo

It was in that connection that Sprague said the committee must conduct its own investigation of the deaths of Giancana, who was shot at least seven times in the basement of his Chicago home last year, and of Rosselli, who was killed and stuffed into an oil drum that later was found floating in Biscayne Bay near Miami earlier this year.

Giancana, reported once to have been second in command in the Chicago mob previously headed by Al Capone, and Rosselli, alleged to have been Giancana's West Coast lieutenant and who was once arrested for fixing card games at the Friars Club in Los Angeles, shared both friends and enemies with Kennedy.

Judith Campbell Exner, a woman now living in San Diego, said last year that she had sexual relationships with both Kennedy and Giancana. Rosselli and Giancana also were involved in a CIA-backed plot to kill Premier Fidel Castro of Cuba.

Giancana was killed while the Senate Intelligence Committee was trying to arrange for him to testify about the Castro plot. Rosselli did answer questions put to him by that committee but was not asked about possible links to the Kennedy assassination.

There have been no arrests in either the Giancana or Rosselli murders.

Sprague said that the committee had been promised the full cooperation of both the FBI and the CIA, including an apparently unprecedented agreement to give committee investigators access to the "raw" files of the two agencies.

He also said he would insist on obtaining autopsy information and other evidence that has been placed under seal at the request of the Kennedy family.

Race for Mansfield's Post Narrows to Byrd, Humphrey

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Senate Democratic leadership contest narrowed Tuesday to Sens. Robert C. Byrd of West Virginia and Hubert H. Humphrey of Minnesota.

Sen. Ernest F. Hollings of South

dropped out of the race and
rd was right at, or possibly
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hrey, however, vowed to stay
ce to the end. His administra-
istant, David Gartner, said
y "feels very good about his

cratic senators will caucus
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convenes, to elect a successor to retiring Sen. Mike Mansfield of Montana as majority leader.

Hollings told newsmen he was withdrawing to give Humphrey "a clear shot" at Byrd, the present party whip and the front-runner for the top post from the outset.

Sen. Edmund S. Muskie of Maine, previously dropped out of the race and, like Hollings, said he was giving his support to Humphrey.

Hollings said he hoped Humphrey would win but said it was going to be tough. He said Byrd might already have 33 votes, one more than a majority of Democratic senators.

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